

Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

February 7, 2018

Minutes

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a silent moment of reflection.

Committee Members present: Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Charleen Thompson, Jack Santaniello, Nobie Thrasher, Amanda Kohout, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, , Dessi Dufresne, Ilse York, Joe Bochicchio , and Vicki Green

Guests Welcomed: Rad Pate (ToM Liaison) , Mike Stubbs(Military Order of the Purple Heart), Melanie Rushing, Hailey Bryant, Kriss Rushing (all with Butler H.S Honors Civics Course), Fran Gierasch, Lisa Davis (both with Woodmen of the World), Rucheer Dave and his parents(Boy Scout Troop 8, Lance Nelson (Dept of VA Affairs), Peter McMurtrie(American Legion), Phil Mowry(potential member) and Paul Bailey (Mayor of Matthews)

Special Guest Speaker: Paul Bailey appreciated what our committee is accomplishing and noticed the organization of our committee. Lisa Davis and Fran Gierasch presented MVAC with a flag for our use. Pete McMurtrie and Mike Stubbs spoke about partnering with us in our event for the Purple Heart Signs, Mike spoke about us being a Purple Heart Town and mentioned that NC was the 1st state to have every town, city and county be designated as purple heart, He also invited us to the local Purple Heart Chapter meetings which meet the 4th Saturday of each month at 9 am at Golden Corral. Lance Nelson talked about the Vet Center. He mentioned they have a 50ft RV they can have at our Veterans Breakfast or in the Labor Day Parade.

Minutes of January 3, 2018: Minutes were approved as transmitted

Old Business:

1: Subcommittee 1. Awareness: Amanda Kohout spoke. This committee met on Jan 24th 2018 and they discussed their goals for the year. The most critical for them at this time is the Veterans Breakfast. Joe is working on the flyers and posters to distribute to area businesses in April and May. When he receives the flyer he will get it to Dessi for Facebook page and to Ilse for a press release. Nate is working on donations to help defer with the cost for the breakfast. They also gave us a day of the event plan for the breakfast and what they need from the rest of the committee. Discussion about Vietnam/Korea War Exhibit was done later in meeting with Fisk. They are reviewing budget and getting it to Jack

2: Subcommittee 2. Resources and Collaboration: Chairperson Larry Stawicki spoke. This subcommittee met on January 31st 2018. They gave their budget to Jack which consists of mostly costs for printing. They brought up we needed covers for the flags we have for transporting- they found some for \$5 each, Fisk is going to ask Conder Flag Company for their price. Michael is working on the rolling calendar (congrats to him and his wife of their new addition to their family) Larry is also putting together lists of all the organizations for Veterans in Mecklenburg County. Larry gave the idea of putting our information on the Next Door App, and Dessi is going to look into it.

3: Subcommittee 3. Communications: Chairperson Dessi Dufresne spoke. They met on January 16th 2018 and went over their plan of action. The Facebook page is up and running. Everyone should feed Dessi info to her personal email. She needs us all to share the posts to our own pages. Trifold will be updated with the facebook page www.facebook.com/MVAC2015 Purple Heart Town logo would be added on back page. Also made recommendation to discontinue the ½ page info sheet and only pass out the Trifold. Ilse is going to be emailing Bio info sheets to us so she can do a monthly press release introducing our board to keep us in the paper. They turned their budget into Jack. They are proposing a Veteran of the Year program and would be getting local businesses to donate items for a gift basket for the winner. Angelo will check on price for a plaque

which would be presented to the winner during the Labor Day festival. Dessi and Ilse met with Corey King of Matthews Park and Rec. They are willing to partner with us for Baucom Park Little Heroes renovation and possibly the new Purser Hulsey Park off Hwy 51 and Phillips Road. Dessi and Angelo are getting prices for the Purple Heart signs. We have requested a grant from Rotary to pay for the signs. A meet and greet will be held after the 1st sign installation. Dessi and Angelo are also pricing some MVAC swag such as stickers and coasters to give out at events. Dessi has come up with a page of places that Fisk and Tom can speak to talk about MVAC. Fisk will be doing his 1st speaking engagement at Rotary.

4: Subcommittee 4: Executive: Fisk Outwater spoke. The annual review for us with the Town is in April. There are no changes at this time to Bylaws. Fisk is working on a letter to the people on back of Trifold thanking them for their support. Fisk met with Leanne Moore about Labor Day festival. Booth will be \$1850 for us. So we need to explore the other options for our booth if we have one. We will be in parade. Fisk may be able to get a C130 from National Guard for parade. For Korea/Vietnam War exhibit we will need each 2 hour slot for 2 MVAC members, 2 Veteran organization volunteers (American Legion Post 235 to help) and a Matthews Police officer to staff the exhibit. Fisk presented a "Direct Help to a Veteran" proposal. Basic principle was each subcommittee locates a veteran to help directly. Ilse mentioned she already has a gentleman she visits each week. Phil Mowry spoke that he feels like we are already doing this. Peter McMurtrie mentioned the Matthews Human Services Council does what we are talking about already. Nobie Thrasher felt we should stay the course of who we are as an Advisory committee. Janet Perkins said we should be advisory and have the bank of knowledge to help these people we come across. Basically the consensus was the committee agreed to stay as advisory as we are.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Jack reported we are on budget with a current balance of \$928.05 all of which is allocated for future projects and items.

Chairperson /Vice Chairperson Comments: Fisk is speaking at Rotary on February 12th. He also showed a community Service guide and mentioned it would be nice for us to out something together like it

Comments-Town Council Liaison: Rad did not have any comments at this meeting

Open Comments: Nobie Thrasher told us they surpassed the goal of 200 miles for USO of NC. Final number was 215 miles. They didn't quite hit their goal of raising \$10000 but USO was very happy to get their name out more. Paul Bailey did say Town of Matthews is reviewing policy and procedure on Facebook pages and we also need to work with Maureen to make sure on town signs we are not duplicating any other committees.

We also introduced Phil Mowry and he spoke he was eager to join us. Committee voted unanimously to accept him as a member of the committee. Welcome Phil!

There were no Forum or Public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Charleen Thompson, Secretary

